

Juniata Shops, Blacksmith Shop No. 1
East of Fourth Avenue at Second Street
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-232-A

HAER
PA,
7-ALTO,
4-A

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

JUNIATA SHOPS, BLACKSMITH SHOP NO. 1

HAER No. PA-232-A

Location: East of Fourth Avenue at Second Street, Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania
USGS Quad: Altoona, Pennsylvania (1:24000)
UTM: 17 E.721520 N.4489900

Date of Construction: 1890, 1903

Builder: Pennsylvania Railroad
William H. Brown, Engineer

Present Owner: Conrail

Present Use: Manufacturing Railroad Rolling Stock

Significance: The Blacksmith Shop No. 1 was one of the four original Juniata Shop buildings constructed between 1888 and 1890.

Project Information: This project was undertaken by HAER in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project as part of an architectural survey covering a nine-county region in Southwestern Pennsylvania, Randall Cooley, Director. See HAER No. PA-108, Pennsylvania Railroad, Altoona Works, Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania for further project information and documentation.

Compiler: Peter Stott, Historian
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History:

The single story Blacksmith Shop No. 1 was one of the four original Juniata Shop buildings constructed between 1888 and 1890. The shops were connected by an impressive hydraulic transfer table which measured 261' x 60'. Blacksmith Shop No. 1 produced the locomotive frames and forgings, which were then finished in the adjacent Machine Shop. Originally 306' in length, by 1905 the building had been extended to 515' in length, and had been joined by a second smith shop some seventy yards to the northwest. In 1937 Shop No.1 was equipped with eleven furnaces serving hammers of various sizes, with several large steam hammers in the center.

Similar to the Machine and Erecting Shops, with which it was contemporary, Blacksmith Shop No. 1 displays a round-arched central opening in its end wall, with side elevations pierced by segmental-arched windows. Today the building is used by Conrail for dead storage. It retains several of the large steam hammers possibly original to the construction of the building, as well as a number of the twentieth-century furnaces and miscellaneous tools.

Sources:

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